

Friends of E.1027

The New York Times

Currents: Modern Design
Little Applauded in Life, a Recluse Goes on Display

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CURRENTS

MODERN DESIGN

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Eileen Gray designed classics like the voluptuous Bibendum Chair (below left); an occasional table (center) that allowed a person to eat breakfast in bed without dropping crumbs on the sheets; and sensual modernist houses like E. 1027, a hideaway for herself and Jean Badovici, an architectural critic. Still, she spent most of her life having her work ignored and did not become world famous until shortly before she died, in 1976. An exhibition opening on Sept. 17 at the Design Museum in London (designmuseum.org) will showcase her work, focusing attention on a designer whom the museum director, Alice Rawsthorn, described as “an independent outsider, a woman working in a man’s world,” who was “shy and reticent to the point of reclusiveness.”

ELAINE LOUIE



Top, Berenice Abbott; above, V&A Images

Louis, Elaine. “Little Applauded in Life, a Recluse Goes on Display.”
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